

WRITING PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT (WPA)

The California State University System (CSU) adopted the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR), requiring that **all undergraduate students** demonstrate competency in writing skills at the upper division level as a requirement for the baccalaureate degree within the California State University System (CSU). (Students seeking a second bachelor's degree in nursing have satisfied the GWAR with their first baccalaureate degree from a college/university accredited by a regional accrediting association.) At San Diego State University, the GWAR begins with the **Writing Placement Assessment (WPA)**, a two-hour examination used to evaluate writing competency.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SATISFYING THE GWAR REQUIREMENT

- **Continuing students who are achieving 60 units in the fall 2021 semester or after**

Continuing students who will achieve 60 units earned by the end of fall 2021 will have a WPA hold placed on their record in September 2021, and will begin to receive email communication to inform them they can take the WPA in fall 2021 or in spring 2022. The WPA hold will be effective for fall 2022 registration, thus students will be required to take the WPA before they may register for fall 2022 classes in April 2022.

- **Continuing students who have or will achieve 60 units by the end of summer 2021**

Continuing students who will achieve 60 units earned, prior to or by the end of summer 2021, can enroll directly into an approved upper division writing course to satisfy the GWAR. While you have until your last semester before graduation to take the approved upper division writing course, you are strongly encouraged to take it sooner rather than later as it will prepare you for writing in your other upper division courses.

Alternatively, you will have the option to take the WPA online in the fall 2021 semester if you choose to do so. If you choose to take the WPA, you are required to follow the prescribed course sequence based on your test score (see scoring information below).

- **New Transfer Students for fall 2021**

The WPA requirement has been waived for newly admitted transfer students for fall 2021. These students will be able to enroll directly into an appropriate upper division writing course to fulfill the **CSU GVAR requirement** or they can choose to take the WPA online in the fall 2021 semester. While you have until your last semester before graduation to take the approved upper division writing course, you are strongly encouraged to take it sooner rather than later as it will prepare you for writing in your other upper division courses. If you choose to take the WPA, you are required to follow the prescribed course sequence based on your test score (see scoring information below).

- **New Transfer Students for spring 2022**

Spring 2022 transfer admits will have a WPA hold placed on their record which will be effective for fall 2022 registration, thus students will be required to take the WPA before they may register for fall 2022 classes in April 2022. Transfer students are able to take the WPA as soon as they receive an offer of admission, and must do so by the end of their first semester at SDSU (preferably in time to have their test results prior to their fall 2022 registration date).

- **New Transfer Students for fall 2022**

Fall 2022 transfer admits will have a WPA hold placed on their record which will be effective for spring 2023 registration, thus students will be required to take the WPA before they may register for spring 2023 classes in November 2022. Transfer students are able to take the WPA as soon as they receive an offer of admission, and must do so by the end of their first semester at SDSU (preferably in time to have their test results prior to their spring 2023 registration date).

Majors that Require a Specific Upper Division Writing Course

The following majors require a specific upper division writing course: Accounting, English, History, Journalism and Media Studies, Liberal Studies, Linguistics, Management Information Systems, Religious Studies, and Rhetoric and Writing Studies. Please check your Major Academic Plan (MAP) or with your major advisor.

Students who transfer from another California State University campus

Students who transfer from another California State University campus having fulfilled the GVAR will not be required to repeat it. However, a course listed below may be required for the major. **Contact the [Office of Evaluations](#) if you believe you have fulfilled this requirement at another CSU.**

Approved Upper Division Writing Courses

Accountancy 390W
Africana Studies 305W
Chicana and Chicano Studies 396W
Economics 449W
English 306W (Liberal Studies majors Only)
English 308W
English 508W (Required for English and Comparative Literature majors; open to other majors)
English 581W
English 584W
History 390W
Humanities 390W
Journalism and Media Studies 310W
Journalism and Media Studies 312W
Linguistics 305W
Management Information Systems 396W
Political Science 390W
Recreation, Tourism and Management 396W
Religious Studies 396W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 305W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 390W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 392W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 500W

Rhetoric and Writing Studies 503W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 508W
Teacher Education 405W

FEE, REGISTRATION AND TEST TRANSFER INFORMATION

The exam fee is a non-refundable **\$45.00**. To register go to <http://testing.sdsu.edu>. The exam fee can be transferred to a different test date with advance notification. It may not be transferred to another individual or to a different exam. You must request the date transfer prior to the registration deadline of the test for which you are already registered. You can send an email to staar@sdsu.edu requesting a transfer to the new date. Please include your name and Red ID in the body of the email. Or, you can visit Testing Services at Student Services West (SSW) 2549 and show your RedID to request a date transfer.

Once you have registered and paid for the exam, you should review your Admission Ticket for details regarding the exam and prohibited items. You can access your Admission Ticket at the [Testing Services Student Login](#).

Exam Date	Times	Reporting Location	Registration* Deadline	Scores Released by[^]
Friday, Oct. 15	2:00 pm	Online Canvas	Monday, Oct. 11	Friday, Oct. 29
Friday, Oct. 29	2:00 pm	Online Canvas	Monday, Oct. 25	Friday, Nov. 12
Friday, Nov. 12	2:00 pm	Online Canvas	Monday, Nov. 8	Wednesday, Nov. 24

*** Sessions will be closed when testing capacity is reached regardless of registration deadline or posted times.**

[^] Score release information: Some test results may not be available prior to the next scheduled test date. Please plan your test date accordingly.

Students Requesting Accommodations

Students with accommodations already authorized by the SDSU Student Ability Success Center (SASC), **and placed on the SDSU Testing Services reservation system by SASC**, will be offered an accommodated test session automatically during online test registration. SASC information can be found at https://newscenter.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/sds/ If you are not offered an accommodated test session when you register for the exam, contact your SASC counselor and ask that they place your accommodation on the SDSU Testing Services reservation system. Accommodations must be arranged no later than the posted registration deadline for the exam (see chart above).

WPA SCORING INFORMATION

- Students who achieve a score of **10** on the WPA satisfy the CSU GVAR and do not have to take a writing course **unless an upper division writing course is required by the major**.
- Students who achieve a score of **8** are required to satisfy the GVAR by completing an approved upper division writing course with a grade of C or higher. See the list above.
- Students who earn a score of **6 or lower** are **required** to complete Rhetoric and Writing Studies 280 (or Linguistics 281 if English is your second language) with a grade of C or higher before enrolling in one of the approved upper division writing courses. **Students who earn a 6 or lower are required to register for the required course in the semester immediately following the test date.** Once students are enrolled in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 280 or Linguistics 281, they may not take the WPA to test out of an upper division writing course or to enroll directly into an upper-division writing course.
- Students are allowed to attempt the WPA twice within the time-frames and restrictions described above. Students may not drop a course in which they are registered if test results are received after the schedule adjustment deadline. Students must pay the required fees for the examination each time it is taken. Fees are non-refundable.

Preparation for the Writing Placement Assessment

Students are **strongly encouraged** to prepare in advance for attempting the Writing Placement Assessment. In addition to the general testing information found here, the [WPA Information & Preparation Site](#) contains study materials, test-taking strategies, and sample essays.

Information contained herein is subject to change without notice.

